

Shelter Planning Continues

On behalf of the Friends of the Duxbury Animal Shelter, a group of fifteen volunteers, Annie Eldridge will be meeting with DPW Director Tom Daley and Police Lt. Roger Banfill today to press forward with plans for a new animal shelter for the town.

Eldridge praises the work of the entire committee in making great strides this summer.

"We've been working with Lt. Banfill and Matt Riggins all summer to monitor the shelter and figure out what the town's real needs are," Eldridge said.

"We do not need the taj mahal of animal shelters. We need a safe, humane holding area for lost animals," Eldridge said. She believes Kingston's animal shelter is a good model for what Duxbury needs, and she and Daley have met previously to tour that facility.

When the Friends started raising funds in earnest in May, they estimated the cost of a new shelter to be \$175,000. After working with police and the ACO to monitor shelter usage this summer, Eldridge and her group believe the facility could be scaled back, and may cost a little less.

"The most dogs we had at one time over the summer was three," Eldridge said, "so we may need only four dog runs instead of the six or eight we previously planned for."

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"My personal goal is \$150,000. I'd like to raise \$100,000 by March, and then ask Town Meeting for \$50,000," Eldridge said. She hopes to leave today's meeting

Planning Continues



Eldridge

with a firm number from Daley as to what the project would cost.

The site the Friends are proposing for the new shelter is an area behind Pilgrim Church.

The road to a new animal shelter in town has been a long one. In 1998, \$10,000 was approved at Town Meeting for either a new shelter or improvements to the existing shelter. That money remains in the shelter fund. Added to it is a donation of \$25,000 from Joe and Billie Perry on behalf of the Aerosmith Band Foundation, Inc. in 1999, \$3,600 from the

recent Reach Out walkathon, and various other donations that now bring the total to approximately \$80,000, according to Eldridge.

The goal of the Friends of the Duxbury Animal Shelter is to break ground next spring, Eldridge said.

Nancy Day is now heading up efforts to organize a major raffle and a dog walk in the coming months, Eldridge said, and Dr. Bruce Berridge, owner of Duxbury Animal Hospital, is planning to donate his time again to conduct a second microchip clinic for dogs.

The Friends committee does not accept funds directly. All contributions should be given to Town of Duxbury/Animal Shelter. For further information, the Friends can be contacted through Eldridge at 781-934-0354, or via e-mail at duxburyanimals@yahoo.com.